PER ME REGES REGNANT
PER ME PRINCIPES IMPERANT
SCRIPTURA ET LEGES SUNT FUNDAMENTA CORONÆ
CEDANT ARMA TOGÆ

27

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27

4

# THE Original and Growth OF PRINTING:

COLLECTED

Out of *HISTORY*, and the *Records* of this *KINGDOME*.

Wherein is also Demonstrated,

That PRINTING appertaineth to the *Prerogative Royal*; and is a Flower of the *Crown* of *England*.

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By RICHARD ATKYNS, *Esq*;

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White-Hall, *April* the 25th. 1664.

By Order and Appointment of the Right HONOURABLE, Mr. Secretary MORICE, Let this be Printed.

*THO: RYCHAUT.*

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*LONDON:*

Printed by *JOHN STREATER*, for the AUTHOR, MDCLXIV.

# TO THE
# KINGS
## MOST
# Excellent Maiesty.

Most Gracious and Dread Soveraign,

*THough I had the Honour to be very well known to His Majesty of ever Blessed Memory, Your most Royall Father, and to be a Sufferer in the loss of a considerable Estate, for His most Just Cause, yet I may not be so well known to Your Sacred Person: however, the same Duty that moved Me to fight for Him, remains in Me to write for You; not out of any Confidence in my Pen (for I am the first shall judge that my Self) but out of Conscience and Loyalty to my Soveraign; for whose sake, I resolve to hazard Censure, rather than to be wanting in any Discovery, that may tend to Your Majesties Interest, and indubitate Right.*

*The least loss of Power in a Magistrate, is a great Detriment to his Government, and an Advantage to his Enemies; the least Creep-Window robs the whole House; the least Errour in War not to be redeem'd: And as that ever Blessed late Martyr said (when He gave his Watch of Go-*



*vernment*

*vernment, to be cleansed by the too-long Parliament) the least Pin of it being left out, would cause a Discord in the whole: Therefore might* Solomon *well say,* Where the Word of a King is there is Power: *The* King *and* Power *being Relatives.*

*That* Printing *belongs to Your Majesty, in Your publique and private Capacity, as Supream Magistrate, and as Proprietor, I do with all boldness affirm; and that it is a considerable* Branch *of the* Regal Power, *will no Loyal Person deny: for it ties, and unties the very Hearts of the People, as please the Author: If the* Tongue, *that is but a little Member, can set the Course of Nature on Fire; how much more the* Quill, *which is of a flying Nature in it self; and so Spiritual, that it is in all Places at the same time; and so Powerful, when it is cunningly handled, that it is the Peoples Deity.*

*That this Power which is intire and inherent in Your Majesties Person, and inseparable from Your Crown, should be divided, and divolve upon Your Officers (though never so great and good) may be of dangerous Consequence: You are the Head of the Church, and Supream of the Law; shall the Body govern the Head? Men use to trust, when they cannot avoid it; but that there may be a Derivative and Ministerial Power in them, with Appeal to Your Majesty, I do with all Humility admit and propose.*

Printing *is like a good Dish of Meat, which moderately eaten of, turns to the Nourishment and health of the Body; but immoderately, to Surfeits and Sicknesses: As the Use*

*is very necessary, the Abuse is very dangerous: Cannot this Abuse be remedied any other way, then by depriving Your Majesty of Your Antient and Just Power? How were the Abuses taken away in Queen* Elizabeth, *King* James, *and the beginning of King* Charles *his time, when few or no Scandals or Libels were stirring? Was it not by Fining, Imprisoning, Seizing the Books, and breaking the* Presses *of the Transgressors, by Order of* Councel-Board? *Was it not otherwise when the Jurisdiction of that Court was taken away by* Act of Parliament, 17 Car. *If Princes cannot redress Abuses, can less Men redress them? I dare positively say, the* Liberty *of the Press, was the principal furthering Cause of the Confinement of Your most Royal Fathers Person: for, after this* Act, *every* Male-content *vented his Passion in Print; Some against his Person, some against his Government, some against his Religion, and some against his Parts: the Common People that before this Liberty believed even a* Ballad, *because it was in Print, greedily suckt in these Scandals, especially being Authorized by a God of their own making: the* Parliament *finding the Faith of the* Deceived People *to be implicitely in them,* Printed the Remonstrance, the Engagement to live and dye with the Earl of *Essex*, the Covenant, *&c. and so totally possest the Press that the King could not be heard: By this means the* Common People *became not onely* Statists, *but* Parties *in the* Parliaments *Cause, hearing but one side, and then* Words *begat* Blows: *for though Words of themselves are too weak Instruments to* Kill a Man; *yet they can direct how, and when, and what Men shall be killed: In the Statute*

*of* 21 Jac. *Printing keeps very able Company*, *as* Salt-Peter, Gun-Powder, Ordnance, *&c. all which are Exempted from being* Monopolies.

*Not to be longer tedious, I too much fear, this late* Act *for two years compleats all the former Concessions of the late King: I know it was done in hast, and with a good Intent; but by Your* Majesties *Gracious Leave and Pardon, even then very considerable Persons in Your* House of Commons, *were of Opinion they had nothing to do with it, the Power of the Press being so wholly in Your* Majesty. *Indeed, Necessity that hath no Law, was the cause of this Law,* viz. *to hinder the Growth of Scandalous* Books *and* Pamphlets; *but it hath fallen very short of the End: for few or none, of many Printed, have bin brought in by the* Stationers. *I have now discharged my Duty to Your* Majesty, *and if I find I have so far prevailed upon Your Royall Goodness, as to ask unconcern'd Councel what is best to be done, I have my End; I hope Your* Majesty *will have the Advantage. So prayeth,*

Your Sacred Majesties

most Humble Servant,

and most obedient Subject,

*RICHARD ATKINS.*

# TO
# The Right Honourable,
# THE
# LORDS,
## AND TO
# The Honourable,
# THE
# COMMONS
## ASSEMBLED IN
# PARLIAMENT.

May it pleaſe your Honours,

I *Have ever better underſtood mine own Diſabilities, than to deſire to appear in Print, where the Author ſtands as a* Butt *to be ſhot at, by the ſharp Arrows of every buſie* Critick, *and runs a moſt certain hazard, and moſt uncertain Benefit: But having been above twenty three years in* Chancery, *and other Courts of Juſtice; and ſpent more then*

*then One Thousand Pounds, in vindicating the Kings Grant of Printing the Common Laws of* England, *and His Lawful Power to grant the same, and kept His Title alive even in the worst of Times (when 'twas reputed unlawful, because the Kings.) I cannot refrain from defending it, now the King is, or ought to be, restored to His Rights again; especially since all Persons are invited by Order to speak their Minds freely concerning this Subject: So that there is a Necessity upon me to speak now, or for ever hereafter to hold my Peace; this being probably the last time of Asking.*

*'Tis not unknown to every Member of each House, how little Benefit hath accrued to the Kingdom, by the late Act of Parliament for two years, Entituled,* An ACT for preventing the frequent Abuses in Printing Seditious, Treasonable, and Unlicensed Books and Pamphlets, *&c. Which Act determines* June *next: Nor can it be thought, but that there is Cause enough for another Act to take place, when this is expired. The Reason why this present Act hath operated so little is most apparent; because the Executive Power is plac'd in the Company of* Stationers, *who onely can offend, and whose Interest it is to do so: They are both Parties and Judges, and 'twere a high Point of Self-denial for Men to punish themselves: But they will wipe their Mouthes with* Solomon's *Harlot, and take it very unkindly, if the same, or a greater Power be not continued to them in the next Act to be made: They will promise as fair as the Long Parliament did to the late King* (to make Him a Glorious King) *and perform it as certainly as they did too.*

*Jugglers seldome shew the same Trick twice together; and the* Italian *Proverb is,* If a man deceive me once, 'tis his fault; if twice, it is mine own.: *That the Great Councel of this Nation, should further trust those that have deceived them already, and believe fair Pretences, contrary to Reason and Practice, would be a sad Fate upon Us all; when wofull Experience tells Us, That if the King be taken from being Head of the Law, there will not want a Law to take off His Head in a short time.*

*There were a sort of People in King* David's *time, which imagined Mischief as a Law; as in the late King's time, that practised Mischief by a Law: which might incline the Parliament to frame a strict Law against this kind of Mischief. But I hope the King's Mercy in forgiving such, (by which He imitates His Maker) will find so hearty a Conversion, that Ingratitude shall never joyn with Rebellion, to provoke a Tyrannical Government.*

*vernment over this Kingdom: such Men (if I may so call them) are worse then the* Gentiles, *of whom St.* Paul *saith,* That having not the Law, and doing by Nature the things contained in the Law, are a Law unto themselves, which shew the Law written in their Hearts; *nay, worse then Beasts, who by Nature observe a Law amongst themselves.*

*Shall Sense and Reason alone teach Creatures willingly to confine themselves to certain Rules for the Common Good, and shall Professors of Christianity break them? Shall the Law of Nature command Men to be free from offending; and shall the Law of God be thought to command them to be free to offend? Let not our too-near Neighbours the* Turks *have that Advantage against us. But whilest I declaim against others for breaking their Bounds, I may be thought guilty of committing the same Errour myself; I shall therefore most humbly beg your Honours Pardon, and rest,*

Your Honours

Most Humble, and Faithful

Servant,

RICHARD ATKINS.

# THE
# Originall and Grovvth
## OF
# PRINTING.

REASON is the great Distinction between Man and Beast; *Gusman* calls the Man of most Knowledg, *A God amongst Men.* And Bishop *Hall* divides the whole Duty of Man into *Knowledg* and *Practice.* In the Infancy of the World (especially before the Sealing of the Scripture-Canon) God Revealed himself and his Will frequently, either Vocally by himself, as to *Moses* in the Mount; or else by divers and sundry other manners, As by Dreams, Visions, Prophecies, Extasies, Oracles, and other Supernatural means: Nor will I Blow up the Humours of these Times so high, as to Confine these his Miraculous Revelations to Gods People onely (though to them most frequently and especially), but sometimes also to Hypocrites within the Church, as to *Saul* and others; yea and sometimes even to Infidels, as to *Pharaoh*, *Balaam*, *Nebuchadnezzar*, *Abimelech*, &c. But since the Writings of the Prophets and Apostles, (commonly called the Scriptures) And that the Christian Church by the Preaching of the Gospel, is become Oecumenical, Dreams and other Supernaturall Revelations, as also other things of like nature as Miracles, have ceased to be of ordinary and familiar use; So as now we ought rather to suspect Delusion in them, than to expect Direction from them: Yet God hath no where abridged or Limited himself from these supernatural wayes of Revealing

*Revelation not Confined only to the People of God.*

his Will, in case his Written Word should be taken from us, or we from it: But we of this Latter Age have all these so Lively represented to our View, by the benefit of *Printing*, as if we our selves were personally present: For *Printing* is of so Divine a Nature, that it makes a Thousand years but as yesterday, by Presenting to our View things done so long before; and so Spirituall withall, that it flyes into all parts parts of the World without Wearinesse. Finally, 'tis so great a Friend to the Schollar, that he may make himself Master of any Art or Science that hath been treated of for 2000 years before, in lesse than two years time. But Virtue it self will not want Opposers, and Philosophy is ever odious to ignorant Ears: Nay, there are a sort of People in the World, that account Ignorance the Mother of Devotion, and therefore out of Conscience would not have even the Scriptures Printed in the Mother Tongue: But I shall not go out of my own Way, to bring them unto it, further than by defending the Theame I have in hand.

*The great Benefit of* Printing.

Concerning the time of bringing this Excellent ART into *England*, and by whose Expence and Procurement it was brought; Modern Writers of good Reputation do most erroniously agree together. Mr. *Stowe* in his *Survey* of *London*, speaking of the 37th year of King *Henry* the Sixth his Reign, which was *Anno Dom.* 1459. saith, That the Noble Science of PRINTING was about this time found in *Germany* at *Maounce* by one *John Cuthenbergus* a Knight, And that *William Caxton* of *London*, Mercer, brought it into *England* about the Year 1471. And first practised the same in the Abby of St. *Peter* at *Westminster*; With whom Sir *Richard Baker* in his Chronicle agrees throughout. And Mr. *Howell* in his *Historicall Discourse* of *London* and *Westminster*, agrees with both the former in the Time, Person, and Place in generall; but more particularly declares the Place in *Westminster* to be the Almory there; And that *Islip* Abbot of *Westminster* set up the first Press of Book-Printing that ever was in *England*. These three famous Historians having fill'd the World with the supposed truth of this Assertion, (Although possibly it might

Printing *supposed to be brought into* England *in the Year* 1471.

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might arise through the mistake of the first Writer only, whose Memory I perfectly honour) makes it the harder Task upon me to undeceive the World again: Nor would I undertake this Work, but under a double notion; As I am a Friend to Truth, and so it is unfit to suffer one Man to be intituled to the worthy Atchievements of another. And as a Friend to my self, not to lose one of my best Arguments of Intituling the King to this ART in his Private Capacity.

Historians must of necessity take many things upon trust, they cannot with their own but with the Eyes of others see what things were done before they themselves were, *Bernardus non vidit omnia*; 'Tis not then impossible they should mistake. I shall now make it appear they have done so, from their Own, as well as from other Arguments: Mr. *Stowe* his Expressions are very dubious, and the matter exprest very Improbable; He saith *PRINTING* was found in *Maguncce*, which presupposes it was practised some where else before, and lost: And further, That 'twas found in the Reign of *Henry* the Sixth, *Anno Dom.* 1459. and not brought into *England* till Eleven years in the succeeding Reign of *Edward* the Fourth, being 12 years after, as if it had been lost again. If this be true, there was as little Rarity as Expedition in obtaining it, the age of 12 years time having intervened, and so indeed it might be the Act of a Mercer rather than a more eminent Person: But when I consider what great advantage the Kingdome in general receives by it, I could not but think a Publique Person and a Publique Purse must needs be concerned in so publique a Good. The more I Considered of this, the more inquisitive I was to find out the truth of it: At last, a Book came to my hands Printed at *Oxon. Anno Dom.* 1468. which was three years before any of the recited Authours would allow it to be in *England*; which gave me some reward for my Curiosity, and encouragement to proceed further: And in prosecution of this Discovery, the same most worthy Person who trusted me with the aforesaid Book, did also present me with the Copy of a Record and Manuscript in *Lambeth*-House, heretofore in his Custody, belong-

ing to the See (and not to any particular Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*) the Substance whereof was this, (though I hope, for publique satisfaction, the Record it self, in its due time, will appear.)

*Thomas Bourchier*, Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, moved the then King (*Hen.* the 6th) to use all possible means for procuring a Printing-Mold (for so 'twas there called) to be brought into this Kingdom; the King (a good Man, and much given to Works of this Nature) readily hearkned to the Motion; and taking private Advice, how to effect His Design, concluded it could not be brought about without great Secrecy, and a considerable Sum of Money given to such Person or Persons, as would draw off some of the Work-men from *Harlein* in *Holland*, where *John Cuthenberg* had newly invented it, and was himself personally at Work: 'Twas resolv'd, that less then one Thousand Marks would not produce the desir'd Effect: Towards which Sum, the said Arch-Bishop presented the King with Three Hundred Marks. The Money being now prepared, the Management of the Design was committed to Mr. *Robert Turnour*, who then was of the Roabs to the King, and a Person most in Favour with Him, of any of his Condition: Mr. *Turnour* took to his Assistance Mr. *Caxton*, a Citizen of good Abilities, who Trading much into *Holland*, might be a Creditable Pretence, as well for his going, as stay in the *Low-Countries*: Mr. *Turnour* was in Disguise (his Beard and Hair shaven quite off) but Mr. *Caxton* appeared known and publique. They having received the said Sum of One Thousand Marks, went first to *Amsterdam*, then to *Leyden*, not daring to enter *Harlein* it self; for the Town was very jealous, having imprisoned and apprehended divers Persons, who came from other Parts for the same purpose: They staid till they had spent the whole One Thousand Marks in Gifts and Expences: So as the King was fain to send Five Hundred Marks more, Mr. *Turnour* having written to the King, that he had almost done his Work; a Bargain (as he said) being struck betwixt him and two *Hollanders*, for bringing off one of the Work-men, who should sufficiently discover and teach

this

this New Art: At last, with much ado, they got off one of the Under-Workmen, whose Name was *Frederick Corsells* (or rather *Corsellis*) who late one Night stole from his Fellows in Disguise, into a Vessel prepared before for that purpose; and so the Wind (favouring the Design) brought him safe to *London*.

'Twas not thought so prudent, to set him on Work at *London*, (but by the Arch-Bishops meanes, who had been Vice-Chancellor, and afterwards Chancellor of the University of *Oxon*) *Corsellis* was carryed with a Guard to *Oxon*; which Guard constantly watch'd, to prevent *Corsellis* from any possible Escape, till he had made good his Promise, in teaching how to Print: So that at *Oxford* Printing was first set up in *England*, which was before there was any Printing-Press, or Printer, in *France*, *Spain*, *Italy*, or *Germany*, (except the City of *Mentz*) which claimes Seniority, as to Printing, even of *Harlein* it self, calling her City, *Urbem Maguntinam Artis Tipographicæ Inventricem primam*, though 'tis known to be otherwise, that City gaining that Art by the Brother of one of the Workmen of *Harlem*, who had learnt it at Home of his Brother, and after set up for himself at *Mentz*.

*Printing first set up at* Oxford.

This Press at *Oxon* was at least ten years before there was any Printing in *Europe* (except at *Harlein*, and *Mentz*) where also it was but new born. This Press at *Oxford*, was afterwards found inconvenient, to be the sole Printing-place of *England*, as being too far from *London*, and the Sea: Whereupon the King set up a Press at St. *Albans*, and another in the Abby of *Westminster*, where they Printed several Bookes of Divinity and Physick, (for the King, for Reasons best known to himself and Council) permitted then no Law-Books to be Printed; nor did any Printer exercise that ART, but onely such as were the Kings sworn Servants; the King himself having the Price and Emolument for Printing Books.

*Printing depraved, by being Incorporated with others*

Printing thus brought into *England*, was most Graciously received by the King, and most cordially entertained by the Church,

Church, the Printers having the Honour to be sworn the King's Servants, and the Favour to Lodge in the very Bosome of the Church; as in *Westminster*, St. *Albans*, *Oxon*, &c. By this meanes the ART grew so famous; that *Anno prim. Rich.* 3. *cap.* 9. when an Act of *Parliament* was made for Restraint of Aliens, from using any Handicrafts here (except as Servants to Natives) a special *Provisoe* was inserted, that Strangers might bring in Printed or Written Books, to sell at their pleasure, and Exercise the ART of Printing here, notwithstanding that Act: So that in the space of 40 or 50 years, by the especial Industry and Indulgence of *Edw.* the Fourth, *Edw.* the Fifth, *Rich.* the Third, *Henry* the Seventh, and *Henry* the Eighth, the *English* prov'd so good Proficients in Printing, and grew so numerous, as to furnish the Kingdome with Books; and so Skilfull, as to print them as well as any beyond the Seas, as appears by the Act of the 25 *Hen.* 8. *cap.* 15. which Abrogates the said *Provisoe* for that Reason. And it was further Enacted in the said Statute, That if any person bought Forreign Books bound, he should pay 6 *s.* 8 *d. per* Book. And it was further Provided and Enacted, That in case the said Printers and Sellers of Books, were unreasonable in their prices, they should be moderated by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer, the two Lord Chief Justices, or any two of them, who also had power to Fine them 3 *s.* 4 *d.* for every Book whose price shall be enhanced.

*None but the Kings sworn Servants permitted to be Printers.*

*The Price of Books not to be enhanced.*

Thus was the ART of Printing, in its Infancy, Nursed up by the Nursing Father of us all, and in its riper Age brought up in Monasteries of greatest Accompt; and yet were the Instruments thereof restrained from the Evil of enhancing the prices of Books, to the Detriment of their Fellow-Subjects, by the Authority aforesaid. While they had this Check upon them, they were not only Servants to the King, but Friends to the Kingdom: But when they were by Charter Concorporated with *Book-Binders*, *Book-Sellers*, and *Founders* of Letters, 3 and 4 *Phil.* and *Mary*, and called the *Company of Stationers*, the Body forgot the Head, and by degrees, (breaking the Reines of Government) they kickt against the Power that gave

gave them Life: And whereas before they Printed nothing but by the Kings especiall Leave and Command, they now (being free) set up for themselves to print what they could get most Money by; and taking the Advantage of those Virtiginous Times, of the latter end of *Henry* the 8. *Edward* the 6. and Queen *Mary*, they fill'd the Kingdom with so many Books, and the Brains of the People with so many contrary Opinions, that these Paper-pellets became as dangerous as Bullets, to verifie that Saying of *Tertullian*, *That Lawyers Gowns hurt the Common-wealth as much as Souldiers Helmets*. Thus was this excellent and desireable ART, within less than one hundred years, so totally vitiated, that whereas they were before the King's Printers and Servants, they now grew so poor, so numerous, and contemptible, by being Concorporated, that they turn'd this famous ART into a Mechanick Trade for a Livelyhood.

But here I must break off (though abruptly) and answer an Objection; for methinks I hear the *Critick* say, *How can that be a Mechanick Trade now, that the Author allowes to be a famous Art heretofore, being always one and the same thing?* *Object. 1.*

The Matter of which before I answer, I must crave leave to give you the signification of the Word *Mechanick*; the rather, because the several sorts of Trades, of which the Company of *Stationers* are Composed (and more particularly the *Book-Sellers* who say they are of no Manufacture) do peremptorily deny themselves to be *Mechanicks*.

*How and why the ART is called a Mechanick Trade.*

The Word *Mechanicus*, which signifies a Handicrafts-man, doth in the strict Sense comprehend *Printers*, *Founders of Letters*, and *Book-Binders*; And I believe, in the large Sense, all Trades-men whatsoever: But if that be deficient, let us go to the Original *Greek* Word μηχανὴ, which signifies, a *Cunning Contrivance* of the Head, as well as Hand; and this will certainly take in all Trades, for as much as there is *Cunning* in all Trades: But if it should miss any, yet it cannot fail of the *Company of Stationers*, because they are denominated a *Mysterys*, *Answ. 1.*

*stery*, and there the strict signification of the Word comes in again.

Now for the matter of the Objection, *That a Famous ART cannot be a Mechannick Trade.*

*Answ. 2.* I Answer, This is so far from being true, that there is nothing in Nature but is good or bad according as 'tis us'd; for the great Creator of all things made nothing to no purpose; even Meat and Drink (without which we cannot live) if abus'd, destroyes life; Twenty dye of Surfets, for one that is starved for want of Meat. But to give you an instance *ad idem:*

*A Simile taken from Musick.* *Musick* is not onely an Art, but one of the Liberall Arts practised by Princes themselves, and made instrumentall to the Glory of God; yet what Trade is there more despicable in the World both in Name and Nature, than a Common Fidler; though he may draw as good a sound out of an Instrument, and have as much Art in Playing and Composing as any Gentleman, yet if he get his Living by it, and makes it his Trade, he is still but a Fidler: and herein I pity him more than any of other Professions, because he perverts the Creation, and turns Day into Night; for most commonly when sober Persons are in Bed, he must play to please the humours of the lighter sort; And though his Heart be ready to break through Melancholy, he must sing a merry Song to delight the Company, if commanded, or have his Fiddle sing about his Ears: Is not this Mechanick, think you?

But to Return where I digrest; *Printing* became now so dangerous to the Common-wealth, That there were more Books Burnt in Ten years, than could be Printed in Twenty: And now it concern'd the Prince altogether as much to Suppress the Abuse, as it was before to Obtain the Use of Printing; And had there not been a Reserve of Licensing such Books as should be Printed still remaining in the Crown, they might have published the wickedness of their own Imaginations with Authority. But Queen *Elizabeth* at her very first Entrance to the Crown, finding so great Disorders in *Church* and

and *State*, by reason of the abuse in *Printing*, Secures in the first place the *Law* and the *Gospel*, of both which the Kings and Queens of *England* have inherent Right as Heads of the Church, and Supream of the Law; and not onely in their publique, but private Capacity, as Proprietors; the Power and Signiory of this, under Favour, cannot be severed from the Crown: The Kings being the Trustees of the People, who have formerly taken an Oath at their Coronation, *That they shall keep all the Lands, Honours, and Dignities, Rights, and Freedoms of the Crown of* England, *in all manner whole, without any manner of minishment; and the Right of the Crown, hurt, decay'd, or lost, to their Power shall call again into the Antient Estate.* Which Oath, the said Queen kept inviolably, and liv'd the more quietly for it all the time of her Reign, and died in Peace. True it is, they may, and do gratifie their Friends and Servants, in giving them the Emoluments and Profits that arise from *Printing*; but the Power they cannot alienate from the Crown, without losing the most pretious Stone out of their Diadem. To shew you one Example for all, the said Queen, the first Year of her Reign, grants by Patent the Priviledge of sole *Printing* all Books, that touch or concern the Common-Laws of *England*, to *Tottel* a Servant to her Majesty, who kept it intire to his Death: After him, to one *Restweirt*, another Servant to Her Majesty: After him, to *Weight* and *Norton*; and after them, King *James* grants the same Priviledge to *More*, one of His Majesties Clerks of the Signet; which Grant continues to this Day; and so for the Bible, the Statute-Laws, the Book of Common-Prayer, Proclamations, as much as the Grammer, the Primer, *&c.* are all granted by Kings and Queens, not onely to gratifie their Friends and Servants, but to preserve the Regal Power and Authority on Foot, and these Books from being corrupted.

*Patents for Printing, granted to several persons.*

The Truth of this the most impudent Opponent will not deny, because the *Patents* themselves give Evidence against them; nor will they deny in words (though they do daily in fact) that the King hath Power to make such Grants.

But this they will Object and say, *That Gentlemen being* *Object. 2.*

*not* Printers *by Trade, nor Free of the Company of Stationers, can never find out the Abuses of* Printing *themselves, nor understand the Cheats of them, they being so many; but they must be discovered either by the* Printers, *or the Company of* Stationers, *or both together:* This is the Common Objection.

*Answer.* To which I Answer; The Objection cannot properly lye against any man for being a Gentleman, because the greatest Nobleman will not deny himself to be one; nor can he with Honour refuse a *Challenge* from any Gentleman: And the very Mechanick is so willing to disguise his want of Gentility, that when he arrives to a Considerable Estate, he is very forward to purchase Honour. Nor can I think any man the less knowing for being a Gentleman, whose Education is most commonly at School, at the University, the Inns of Court, Travell, or both; Whereas the Education of a Mechanick is only at School, without any other Improvements: This being the Course that each of them generally runs, 'tis strange if the Gentleman should not get the start, and be better known to Letters, Manners, and Men, than the Mechanick. But this *Objection* goes further.

3. *Object.* *That though they may know Letters, &c. better than the Mechanick, yet they can never arrive to a full Discovery of the Mystery and deceitfull part of the Trade; that they must give Handicrafts men leave to know best.*

1. *Answ.* To which I Answer; First, That there is no Magick in this Art; Jugglers they may be, but Conjurers they are not.

2. *Answ.* Secondly, That Gentlemen may and do know the Mystery and Deceipt of the Trade as well as those that act it; but their knowledg tends different wayes. It is the Gentlemen or Patentees part to detect and hinder this Deceipt; As 'tis the *Stationers* to promote and practice it: Their Profit blinds them so, that they resemble certain Birds, who when they hide their heads, think none can see their Bodies; Or like Children, who after a fault Committed, wink themselves, thinking

thinking thereby that none can find them out. To render this possible, I will give you an Instance of a Person, that none can deny to be a Gentleman, though he were much more, (I mean the late King) who was not onely *aliquis in omnibus*, but *singularis in omnibus*.

This excellent Prince, hearing of a rare Head, amongst several other Pictures, brought *Me* from *Rome*, sent Sir *James Palmer*, to bring it to *Whitehall* to Him, where were present divers *Picture-Drawers* and *Painters*: He ask'd them all, *Of whose Hand that was?* Some guest at it; Others were of another Opinion; but none was positive: At last, said the King, *This is such a Man's Hand, I know it as well, as if I had seen him draw it: But* (said he) *is there but one Man's Hand in this Picture?*

*The King more skilfull than Mechanicks in their own Trade.*

None could discern, whether there was or not: But most concluded, there was but one Hand: Said He, *I am sure there are two Hands in it, for I know the Hand that drew the Heads; but the Hand that drew the rest, I never saw before.* Upon this, a Gentleman that had been at *Rome*, about Ten Years before, affirmed, *That he saw this very Picture, with the two Heads, unfinished at that time; And that he heard his Brother* (who staid there some years after him) *say, that the Widow of the Painter that drew it wanting Money, got the best Master she could find to finish it, and make it saleable.* Is it not strange, that the King that was no *Picture-Drawer* himself, should see further into a Picture, than *Painters* by Trade.

But were the Objection true (as 'tis much to be doubted) yet were the *Patentees* still the very fittest Persons to be imployed, in redressing the Evils of the Press, wherein they are concern'd, because their Interest leads them to it: And Men will come to a soon Discovery, even of obscure things, where their Interest inclines them; Indeed, the *Printers* Argument against the *Booksellers*, &c. being all of the Company of *Stationers*, doth hold in point of Government amongst themselves, *That 'tis absurd and ridiculous for any, to have the Rule and Oversight of that which they have no insight in.*

*Patentees fittest to redress the Evils of the Press.*

*A brief Discourse concerning Printing.* Page 8.

But this is not at all applicable (nor do they intend it to be so) to the King's *Patentees*; who (if they be not *Printers* themselves, nor have a *Printer* of their own) agree with one to Print such a Book, whereof they have the Propriety, which *Printer* gives him Security to Print the same perfect, and with a fair Letter; it matters not whether the *Pattentee* can set the Letters, or have Skill in the Manufacture himself; 'tis sufficient for him to examine it with his Copy when 'tis done, (which Copy cannot erre, because it is under the publique Licence) and try whether it be as 'twas agreed; and if it be not as it ought to be in all respects, the *Printer* loseth his Labour and Charge: 'Tis the Printers Interest then as well as the Patentees, to Print it perfect and fair; without which, (should they both joyn together) they could not vend it, after 'twas Printed. I confess, it would argue an ill Nature in me, not to be sorry for the just Occasion the *Printers* have to complain of their Brethren the *Bookfellers*, were it not for this, *That when some men fall out, others shall hear of their Goods*: Yet I cannot but side with the *Printers* thus far, as to Declare, That they, with the Founders of Letters, are the onely Instruments of absolute Necessity in this ART; whereas *Book-Sellers* might be supply'd out of the She-Shopkeepers in *West-minster-Hall*, if all the rest were higher promoted. *In fine*, These *Bock-Sellers* are the *Drones* that devour the Honey, made by the Laborious *Printers*; I cannot so sensibly express it, as themselves have done: therefore hear them, and not Me; Say they, *So far were the* Stationers *from redressing the* Printers *Wrongs, that some of themselves, took upon themselves, the Exercise of their Function, and gave a Forreigner his Freedom* gratis, *to inable him to usurp the Exercise of the* Printers *Calling*; *and to compleat the Abuse, Erect a* Printing-House *of their own: so as it is become a Question among the* Book-Sellers, *whether a* Printer *ought to have any Copy or no? Or if he have, They (keeping the Register) will hardly enter it: Or if they do, they and their Accomplices will use all means to disparage it, if not down-right counterfeit it, that they Tyrannize over* Printers. *And further, That for want of a due Establishment, Transgressors never want Incouragers to begin, or Chapmen to vend such Ware, when finished a-*

*Printers and Founders onely necessary to the Art of Printing.*

*A Brief Discourse concerning* Printing Pag. 5.

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*among*

*mong the* Stationers. *They desire, that such as are free of the Trade, may be free indeed, and not manumitted* (as of late) *from the Service of one Master, to the Slavery of many Tyrants: That the* Stationers *have usurped their Callings, and incouraged, yea hired others so to do, and stand related to each other, as the Buyer to the Seller. Upon all which, they refer their Cause, to the same* Power *that gave them theirs, who may resume, or abridge the same, upon Mis-use, at their pleasure.* This is a sad Complaint of Elder Brethren against their Younger; if one Dog will not prey upon another, what Reason can be given, why Men should devour Men? And if this be the Usage those must trust to, to whom they profess Friendship; what is like to become of the *Patentees*, against whom they profess Enmity? If such a Power be continued to them, which I hope will be seriously considered of, before it shall be re-granted. Success (which usually gives Confidence) hath so hardned them, that having not felt the Justice of the King's Hand, for above twenty years last past, they now begin to swear Him out of, and Themselvs into, this Part of His Regal Power: For they being lately Examined upon Interrogatories, between *Atkins et Uxor.* Plaintiffs, and *Flesher* and the *Stationers* Defendants; some of them (I am sure) are so streight-mouth'd, that they do not declare the whole Truth of what they know on our Part, and seem to make a Conscience of Swearing at all; As if St. *Paul* had been in an Errour, when he said, *An Oath for Confirmation, is an end of Strife.* Indeed, they strein'd at a Gnat, but when they were to swear on the other Part (namely their own) they open their Mouthes wide enough to swallow a Camel. *Say they, from the Year* 1641. *or* 1642. *until the time of His Majesties Blessed Restauration to His Crown, any* Booksellers *that listed, did print, or cause to be printed, such Law-Books as seemed good unto them, without Restraint or Prohibition, occasioned by the Licence of the late Times: And that such as had Licence under the King's Grant to print Law-Books, were hindered to make the Benefit of the said Grant; And that it was usual for such persons as printed Law-Books, to enter the same in the Book of* Stationers-Hall; *And that it was conceived and taken, that such person and persons, as Entred a Copy in the said* Hall-Book *to be Printed, had the sole Right to print*

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*The dangerous Consequence of power in the* Stationers.

*The* Stationers *Conscience.*

*print the same; and those that claim'd the Right of Printing Law-Books under the King's Licence, were thereby taken to be Excluded, and debarred to claim any Benefit therein.*

Observe what a sad time the Kings Patentees endur'd for almost Twenty years together, contest by the Oaths of these honest Men, that joyn'd in dividing the Spoyl: And shall it be so still, now the King is return'd again? I dare positively say it shall; Witness a Book called *Poulton's Abridgment*, particularly Exprest in the *Law-Patent*, which they Printed since the Kings Restauration, by vertue of an Entry only in their *Hall-Book*, against the said Patent; the Patentee's Lessee *Flesher* (a principal Member of the Company) finding the *Staticners* like to be worsted at the Council-Board in the Contest of their said *Entry* against the Kings *Grant*, joyns Interest with them, and also Engageth the Kings Patentees Trustee, and the Kings Printers (who pretended Some Interest in the said Book) on their side; As if severall bad Titles could create one good one: By which means after Four Hearings, the Cause (seeming to be between Party and Party) was dismist, but with the Recommendation of the King and Councill to the Lord High Chancellor, on the behalf of the said *Patentee* (who had the Equitable Right): The Company to requite the Lessees kindness in defending them from a Contempt against the KING, (he being the person in Law that ought to have defended the *Patent* for the King against the said Company) like Brethren---joyn with the Lessee to defend him against the Justice of the Court of *Chancery*, and Combine together to defeat the Patentee of his Rent by Covenant, and so bandy the Legall Interest from one hand to another, that it cannot be yet found where it Vests; and to enable him the better, make him Master of the said Company for two years together (never known before), and choose Wardens fit for the purpose, who Engage the Stock of the whole Company on his behalf, against the King's Patentee: And being thus fortified, they published the said Book with this Title Page, *Printed for the Company of Stationers*, John Bill *and* Christopher Barker *his Majesties Printers*; and so make a mixt Interest,

Interest, to render the Title the more questionable in the future; but do not so much as mention the Kings Patent at all, by which the said Book is granted by Name: This serves the Turn for the present occasion, and being so possest as aforesaid, *Flesher* and the *Stationers* give 200 l. to the Patentee's Trustee to release the Rent and Covenants of the said Lease, and the Kings Printers 100 l. or 200 l. for their assistance in so difficult a Work as this, and then sell the Impression for 1600 l. (as appears by their own Oaths) which Impression alone over-payes them all the Moneys they are out of Purse: And had they not been stopt in their full Carrear at the Council-Board, or rather by *Injunction* in *Chancery*, (which they Complain of as a hinderance to their Trade also by Oath) they had by this time altered the Ancient Law-Books, and cast them into a new Modell of their own Invention; that by degrees the state and truth of the good Old Lawes by which Men hold their Lives and Estates, should utterly be lost and forgotten, and new Laws fram'd to fit the Humours of a new Invented *Government*; which they little value, so they may have full rates for their Books, and their Goddess *Diana* be safe.

I have gone thus far upon mine own Strength onely, without any publique or private assistance; and because I am not willing to endure the Field much longer of my self, I think it my Duty to state the Case truly as it is, and implore the Ayd of such Neighbours (who cannot probably prevent the burning down of their own Houses, when mine is first set on fire): Common Experience tells us, a just Cause signifiês little of it self, if it be not backt with Diligence and Friends: *Bonum apparens et bonum verum et absolute*, are so like, (though of a Contrary Nature) that the Credit of the best Testimony gives either precedency; 'tis therefore not only hard, but impossible for one Man to Contend with a Thousand, and not be Conquered. *Hercules* was most Strong and Valiant, and yet, *ne Hercules contra duos*. I have no proper Refuge but to his Majestie in this Case, which I do chiefly Espouse for his sake, who like King *David* is worth Ten Thousand of

us,

us. I have not the Power to *Impose*, but rather to *Propose* his Majesties timely Assistance: Onely this I hope I may say without offence, That if the King suppose it not for his Interest, I shall more willingly lay down the Cudgells, than I took them up at first: But if otherwise, I am as Careless of their Malice, as *Gallio*, it being not the first time I have past upon the Forlorne Hope.

*'Tis against the* Stationers *Interest to redress the Evills of the* Press.

By this time the Impartiall Reader may inclin'd to believe, the Company of *Stationers* are not the fittest Persons to redress the Evills of the Press; because 'tis most certain, that none but themselves can offend: And 'twould be greater Self-denyall in them than can be expected, to punish themselves contrary to their Interests. There are at least 600 Booksellers that keep Shops in and about *London*, and Two or three Thousand free of the Company of *Stationers*; the Licensed Books of the Kingdome cannot imploy one third part of them: What shall the rest do? I have heard some of them openly at the *Committee* of the *House of Commons* say, They will rather hang than starve; and that a man is not hang'd for stealing but being taken; *necessitas cogit ad turpia*. But this is not all, 'tis not onely for their Interest not to Suppress them, but to Maintain them: An unlicensed Book bears Treble the price of another; and generally the more Scandalous a Book is, by so much the more dear: This hath inricht the Wealthiest of them; and when they fear losing their ill-got Goods, they put their Journy-men of the poorer sort, or their Apprentices, upon the Work, going shares with them, and taking their Oaths or other Security to be true to them, though false to all the World besides. Thus do they breed up their Youth like the *Lacedemonians*, who allow'd their Children little or nothing but what they could get by filching and stealing: That the *Printers* are Poor and Numerous, can no body deny, for it hath lately been the great Work of this *Parliament* to lessen their Number, and to provide for their Poor. But because Extream Prices may be doubted by those that do not usually buy, I will give you one Instance for all; I was lately in a Book-seller's Shop,

where

where I saw a Book in *Quarto*, entituled, *Killing no Murder*, it had but eight Leaves in all, stitcht up without binding, he demanded 5 s. for it, and would not take less: A Book of the same bignes Licensed, would have cost but 4 *d.* or 6 *d.* at the most. 'Tis not then the Interest of the Company of *Stationers* to suppress unlicensed Books: Whose is it then? I Confidently Affirm, it is the Patentees, who derive from the King. I shall give you one Similitude of the like Nature; The King, as belonging to the Honor of *Windsor*, hath a great Quantity of Ground of which he makes little or no benefit, because it lyes in Common; And the Neighbours thereabouts, do not onely eat the Herbage, but steal the Kings Deer, and destroy his Woods, without giving any Accompt or Satisfaction whatsoever: To prevent which Mischief, the King Inclosetb several Parks, and gives the keeping of them to several Persons by *Patent*, reserving what he pleaseth out of them, the rest he gives the *Patentees*: these are still the Kings Parks, though kept by the *Patentees*; for the King kills what Deer he pleaseth, disposes of the Venison, and sells the Timber for Repair of his Houses, Shipping, *&c.* What wrong doth He to His Neighbours, by Inclosing His own Lands, which He denyes to none of His Subjects? Yet His Neighbours are troubled, because they cannot wrong Him as before; and upon every Distemper of the Commonwealth, destroy the Fences, and make it Common again. Is it not (think You) the Interest of the *Pattentees*, to defend the Kings Right, and their own Profit under Him, and to prosecute the Law against such Offenders? Is not the Interest of the King and His *Patentees* so involv'd, that they cannot be divided? Just so is it by Inclosing Printing; the King (having the Right thereof, as much as of any Crown-Lands) Grants all sorts of Books, necessary for the Education of Youth, or the Improvements of Age, or whatsoever else is usefull for Soul, Body, or Estate, to several Persons by *Patent*; it will much concern these *Patentees*, in Honour and Profit both, to see their several Grants be not Trespassed upon, nor Corrupted by others: And so they have ever kept their Copies intire, till the latter end of the late King *Charles*

*The unconscionable dealing of Booksellers.*

*Crown-Lands and Printing, equally the Kings Right.*

 His

*The sad Effects of the Executive Power of* Printing *in the Company of* Stationers.

His Reign; At which time, the Company of *Stationers*, by fair Pretences, (as they did before to Queen *Mary*, to get their *Charter*) obtain'd a *Decree* of *Star-Chamber*, to Invest the Executive Power of Printing in them, against the *Patentees*; and then Libellous and scandalous Books and Pamphlets began to fly about like Lightning: And when this was strengthned with an Act of 17 *Car.* which took away the Jurisdiction of the *Council-Board* and the *Star-Chamber* (at least between Party and Party), their Mischief was compleated, and they impowred to vent the Passions of all Discontented Minds in Print, against Monarchy and Episcopacy; which they persu'd with such Diligence and Success, that they did eradicate both Root and Branch: Whereas the *Council-Board*, and the *Star-Chamber*, did usually Fine and Imprison such Transgressors; Of which, I can shew several Presidents, from the time of Queen *Elizabeth*, to this King's Reign.

*Object.* 4. But it may be said, *Scandalous, Libellous, and Heretical Books may be Printed of themselves, without any Relation to the several kinds of Books granted by Patent.*

*Answ.* I Answer, 'Tis very true; but as long as the Gospel, the Lawes, and all other Books for the Advancement of Learning, good Manners, and Education of Youth, that are in Grant, be kept intire, without any mixture of Heresie, Scandall, or Schisme, 'twill go a great way in preventing Libells and Scandalls; and the Parliament may do the rest with greater Ease, by reducing the Number of Presses, and inflicting great Penalties upon such as shall Print and Publish unlicensed Books and Pamphlets: Which Penalties cannot be too big, because it lyes in their own power whether they will offend or not.

*Too great Penalties cannot be inflicted for Offences in* Printing.

If the Power this Parliament hath given the Company of Stationers, had taken any good Effect, they might have possibly continued it: But as a Worthy Gentleman Notes, amongst other most true and Ingenious Observations, That not one Person hath been Fin'd, and but one prosecuted, by the

the Company of Stationers, since the late ACT, notwithstanding so much Treason and Sedition *Printed* and dispersst since that time; but he himself (being an Active Gentleman and Loyall Subject) hath Discovered more within this two years, than the Company of Stationers have done ever since they had a Charter. To this give me leave to adde, That 'tis not likely (setting profit aside) even in order to Kingly Government, they should suppress these Books; for a Corporation being in it self a Petit-State, is inconsistent with Monarchy. Wofull Experience tells us, That very few, if any, went further with the KING than their own Interests led them; Which puts me in mind of a Story of Queen ELIZABETH, who being at *Quinborough* upon an Occasion, the Maior of the Town brought her onwards of her Way so far, till the Queen desir'd him to return back again, saying, he had brought her far enough: To which he replyed, Madam, I'le bring your Majestie as far as my Way lyes. For his Worship, being a Landed Man, had a small Tenement about a mile further.

*More Treason and Sedition discovered by a Gentleman in two years, than hath ever been by the Stationers.*

I wish Corporations would do but as much as that, and not go out of their Way to destroy Monarchy; for I must needs confess, that shining Shooes and set Ruffs were very forward to sit in Judgment upon the late King's Party, for doing but their Duty to their PRINCE, which they themselves ought to have done.

And here I might take occasion to say, That though the Lawes of GOD be infinite and everlasting, and fitted for all Times and Persons, yet the Lawes of Men are like themselves, finite, imperfect, and subject to Infirmity, and Death it self, as the makers are: Hence it comes, that so many Laws are repeal'd, and others made in their rooms; and hence it may come, that all lesser Governments under a Monarchy may by *misuser* be wholly taken away, or else abated; as was heretofore the Barons Power by their so often taking up Arms against the KING; and the two Hundreds of *Dudson* and *Kings Barton*, who were by this very Parliament taken out of the Jurisdiction of Gloucester, though enjoy'd by them ever since the Times of *Richard* the Third, the Grant

*Humane Laws subject not only to Imperfection, but Death itself.*

being judg'd unreasonable; our best **Lawes** and **Constitutions** by Age losing strength and vigour, as our Bodies do, either by the Crafty Evasions of the Offendors, or by the alteration of their Vices, or by the male-administration of Justice upon the Malefactors; for the just performance of which last, none have greater Encouragement than the reward of a good Conscience to fortifie them against the malice of those they punish; who though they Act according to their best Judgment, yet by reason of some doubtful penning of a Law, Offenders are also many times taken out of the hand of Justice, to the very great encouragement of the Delinquents, and discouragement of the Punishers; insomuch, as when *Twyn* was lately arraign'd for **Printing Treason**, he was condemn'd by the old Law, though there be a new one now Extant for that very purpose. And so I return to the **Stationers** again; where I find them very Sollicitous with the **Parliament** to Enlarge, or at least Confirm, this Power they have already, (resolving to have it by *Hook* or by *Crook*) and Promising all care and diligence for the future, if they shall be once more trusted; saying, with **Absolom**, *O that I were made Judge in the Land, &c. That every Man might have Justice:* and what followes, but presently raising an Army against King *David*, though his own Father.

Let not the *Reader* conjecture I lay an *Imputation* upon every particular Member of the Company, (for there are too many of them that groan under the like Burthen, as I my self do,) but against the whole Corporation, as a Body Politique (especially as 'tis now governed.)

I have now shewed you the Practices of the Company of *Stationers*, and some particular Members thereof, against the *King*, and his *Patentees*; who, like Painted Sepulchres, appear Glorious without, but within are full of Rottennes and Corruption: I have also opened, tented, and sering'd the Sores of their Body Politique, and tryed them to the quick (which I hope will not prove like the Touch of a Gall'd Horse-Back, to receive a Kick for my Labour and good-will). But because I am not so good a Chirurgion, as to close and cure them again my self, I shall implore the help of the *Parliament*,

and

and shall most humbly Recommend them to their Cure, together with these ensuing Observations and Proposals.

The Reasons inducing Queen *Mary* to Incorporate the *Stationers*, are expressed in her Charter in these words, *Nos considerantes quod seditiosi et heretici Libri, Rithmi, &c. indies sunt editi, excuss. et impressi per diversas scandalosas, malitiosas, Schismatic. et heretic. personas, non solum movend. Subditos et Ligeos nostros ad seditiones et inobedientias, contra nos, Coronam et dignitatem nostras, verum etiam ad maximas et detestabiles heresies, contra fidem, &c. Et remedium congruum in hac parte providere Volentes; de gratia nostra speciali &c.* The Queen Erects the Corporation with Powers and Trusts,

1. To make Lawes *pro securo regimine* of the Members of the Company.

2. To search for and seize Books Printed contrary to Law.

*Observations and Proposals recommended to the Parliament.*

*Observ.* 1. The Erecting this Corporation hath not proved Remediall against the Mischiefs recited in the Charter; But the Queen was wholly deceived in the Design aymed at in passing the Charter.

2. The Intrusting the Stationers with the Powers aforesaid, hath not only not remedied, but hath encouraged, encreased, and secured the Printing Sedition and Treason. For,

3. The Persons who are Intrusted with the Search and Discovery of the Offences to be remedied, are themselves the Common Offenders therein.

*Principall and particular Members of the Company high Delinquents.*

The Company, in their Politique Capacity, cannot Execute the Trusts, or merit or offend, but by their particular Members; divers principal Members of the Company have been actually Convicted, some as privy and accessory, other as Principals, in Printing and Publishing Illegal Books; and many Treasonable Books have been printed, during the late Troubles, for several principal Members of the Company.

4. The Company of *Stationers* have in other things exceeded the Authorities granted by their Charter, as by Imposing and

and Administring of Oaths, &c. and by Entring other Mens Copies in their Hall-Book as their own, and then Printing and Selling them in Opposition to the King's Grant; and this by vertue of a Law in the late Evil Times: and have also assumed to themselves (by Colour of the said Charter) the whole Right of Priviledging and Exercising Printing, and have Combined to oppose and overthrow the King's Just Power and Prerogative herein, and Interest of His *Patentee*.

1. From all which it appears, the Crown hath been deceived in the End and Design of Erecting the said Corporation.

2. That they have not proved Remediall, but Instrumental, to the Increase of the Mischiefs they should redress.

3. That they have broke and acted contrary to the Trusts imposed in them by their Charter.

4. They have, by Colour of their Charter, abused the Favour of the Crown, in exceeding the Authorities granted them, and assuming to themselves the whole Power of the Crown, concerning the Matter of Printing.

I therefore take the boldness, most humbly to propose to your Honours;

*The Proposals.*

I. That the King's Just Power and Prerogative, in the impowring and restraining Printing, and in the Hearing, Regulating, and Determining all Differences touching the same, as a Matter of State, be Declared and Confirmed, as an Antient and Hereditary Right of the CROWN; And that all Laws contrary thereunto be Repealed.

II. That an ACT for Regulating Printing may Establish Propriety therein according to the Kings Grants thereof, and may direct Rules for the Licensing and Management of Printing, and inflict Penalties for Abuses therein, with Legall Means for the Executing such Penalties, and for settling and securing every Man's Propriety, (saving the Right of the Crown) to regulate or restrain any Interest or Right in Printing, or other matter concerning the same, which by the King and Councill shall be conceiv'd a Nusance of State.

III. That

III. That the Charter of the Company of *Stationers*, who Claym thereby an unlimited Power in Printing, be examined, together with the Unreasonableness thereof, and the Abuses committed thereby, by Testimony of Witnesses to be Summoned to that purpose; And that the said *Charter*, and the *Powers* thereby granted, be limited according to Reason and the true Intent of the Grant.

IV. That the Penalty for Printing without Licence, be forfeiture of the Book or thing so Printed, and treble the value thereof, one Moyety thereof to the Patentee or Party interessed in the Right of Printing such unlicensed Book (if any person be therein interessed), or otherwise to the KING, and the other Moyety to the Informer: But that Books once Licensed, may be reprinted without Licence, or so much of them as shall be without addition or alteration.

V. That the KING's Patentee for Printing Law-Books, be Priviledg'd with a like Priviledge, as the Patentees for the Bible are, or shall be Priviledged; and with Power to search with an Officer for unlicensed Law-Books, and to Seize and carry away the same to some publique place.

VI. That no Disloyall or Notorious Criminal Person for Printing Treasonable or Seditious Books in the late Times of Trouble, be admitted to keep a Printing-Presse; And that such as be Intrusted with a Printing-Presse, be Sworn not to offend the ACT of Parliament, &c. and give Security for the same.

VII. That the Entry of other Mens Copies in *Stationers*-Hall, be declared to be of no Validity, especially as to give them any Title to such Books as are Granted by Patent to others.

*And now it may be most truly said, That the Author is very tedious, and yet hath made few or no Propositions but such as concern the King and his Patentees.* Object. 5.

To

*Answer.* To which I Answer, That all other Interests have not been wanting to make the best of their Case, and their Desires to be fully understood; And as for the Company of *Stationers*, they were by this late ACT so amply provided for, as that at the Committee of the House of Commons they had nothing more of Substance to desire. The Printers have also published a late Book, wherein they desire to be Incorporated and made a Company of themselves, apart from the Company of Stationers, of which they now are; and therein also have stated the best of their Case. Mr. *L'Estrange* hath also published a Book, wherein he Treateth of the whole matter in generall, and shews the severall Abuses of Printing and Printers, but hath not applyed himself to any particular Interest: And therefore I have taken the Boldness to say somewhat, though weakly, for the KING and his Patentees; hoping an ill Pen shall not destroy a good Cause; But that the Wisedome and Loyalty of this Parliament, which is Exemplary for both, will Supply all Defects, and take the Will for the Deed; The rather, because Extream Necessity enforceth me to say somewhat now before the ACT be past; Which makes me rather adventure to be ridiculous, than wanting to my Duty. I shall add onely one word more, That in a Business of so great Intricacy and Concernment as this of Printing, your Honours would not without very great Consideration, make an ACT for Perpetuity, In which all Interests may be equally Considered; the rather, because the late ACT now in being, which was past in hast, is judg'd (even by Your Selves) to have many Imperfections in it.

And if the Brewers, who at most can but steal away a Flegmatick part of the King's Revenue, deserve the serious Consideration of the Supreme Council of *England*, how much more these, that do not onely bereave the King of his Good-Name, but of the very Hearts of His People; between whom there is as much odds, as between a Pyrate that robs a Ship or two, and *Alexander* that robs the whole World.

*FINIS.*